State Governments/UT Administrations have also been empowered to fix stock limits in respect of pulses, edible oils, edible oil-seeds, rice paddy and sugar to enable them to take effective action under the Essential Commodities Act against hoarders and speculators and bring out the hoarded stock these items into the open market. However, housing is not included under essential commodities notified for the purpose.

Further, "Land" and "Colonisation" being State Subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to provide for adequate shelter at affordable prices and taking such measures as may be essential for facilitation thereof.

(c) Government of Maharashtra has informed that there is no provision to the effect that if the flats remained vacant for more than six months, the State of Maharashtra can requisition the same and make allotment of the same to the needy persons. The provision to requisition vacant premises under the Bombay Land Requisition Act, 1948 for any public purpose is not deployed for any market intervention programme to bring about correction in prices of flats.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Construction of houses under JNNURM

1406. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 16 lakh urban houses are under construction under JNNURM; and

(b) how many of these are being constructed in the State of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) A total of 14.55 lakh houses have been approved for construction under the Sub – Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). Out of these 14.55 lakh houses, 9810 houses have been approved for construction for the State of Punjab.

Houses for SCs

†1407. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of categories in the Schedule Caste which have been allotted houses;

(b) the details thereof category-wise;

(c) the reasons for not allotting houses according to categories; and

(d) by when all the categories of Schedule Castes would be provided houses?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) The Jawaharlal Nehru National urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) adopts a "whole slum"

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.